

HHRRC Grants

One of the most important goals of the HHRRC is to directly support the efforts of AAFS members and their partners in promoting the application of contemporary forensic science and forensic medicine principles to global humanitarian and/or human rights projects requiring special forensic assistance. Proposals for HHRRC support should be made or sponsored by AAFS members, or by non-members who seek the involvement of AAFS specialists/experts. The HHRRC Grants are made possible by support from the AAFS and the National Institute of Justice (NIJ).

Proposals may originate from organizations such as medicolegal institutes, forensic services within police units, humanitarian organizations, or universities involved in teaching forensic science/forensic medicine but must have an AAFS member associated with the proposed work. Proposals for support can include, but are not limited to, support for training, applied research that directly address humanitarian and/or human rights challenges, training materials and equipment, advisory services, and subject matter expertise provided by AAFS members.

Examples of previous awards include efforts to locate and interview the relatives of victims killed by the Shining Path and/or government paramilitary in Peru, a longitudinal study of grave detection using various remote sensing techniques in Columbia, taphonomic studies of scavenging and decomposition in South Africa and Nigeria, generating oxygen and hydrogen isomaps from water sources in Columbia, investigation of mass atrocities in the Republic of Georgia, the recovery and identification of victims of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre, human hair and natural fibers to detect chlorine gas exposure, and multidisciplinary efforts to help identify migrants in the Mediterranean as well as the U.S. southern border.

The request for proposals and notification of the maximum allowable award will be distributed annually in August and the deadline for completed applications is October 1. All proposals must be written in English, and supporting documents in a language other than English should include translations. Administration overhead will not be paid as part of any grant. Proposals should be submitted to the HHRRC Chair.

The Clyde Snow Award

The Clyde Snow Award is awarded annually to a forensic scientist or organization that has made outstanding or enduring contributions to forensic science for the global advancement of human rights and humanitarian action. The award recognizes the pioneering contributions of forensic anthropologist Clyde Collins Snow (1928-2014) in the application of forensic science to human rights. Dr. Snow helped catalyze the development of forensic science to support human rights throughout Latin America and around the world.

Recipients of the Clyde Snow Award will embody the spirit and far reaching contributions made by Dr. Snow. In addition, the Clyde Snow Award exemplifies the commitment of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences to the application of forensic science to help resolve important issues in the international and global domain.

Candidates for this award (individuals or organizations) may be nominated by a member of the AAFS or others of the international forensic science community. These should be directed to the Chair of the HHRRC committee by April 1 of each year.

The Award will be presented at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences.



What is the AAFS HHRRC?

The American Academy of Forensic Sciences Humanitarian and Human Rights Resource Center (HHRRC) seeks to utilize the assets of the AAFS to promote the application of contemporary forensic science and forensic medicine principles to global humanitarian and/or human rights projects.



The Center also provides support to AAFS members engaged in human rights and/or humanitarian forensic applications and encourages AAFS members to increase their involvement in such matters. AAFS members are likely to develop their own personal and professional skills in undertaking this work.

Resources provided by the HHRRC include grants, the Clyde Snow Award, and assistance in obtaining expertise, equipment, education and document resources.

The HHRRC is led by a Chair with support of the International Advisory Council comprised of experts across the Academy. Subcommittees provide additional support and advice in following four areas.

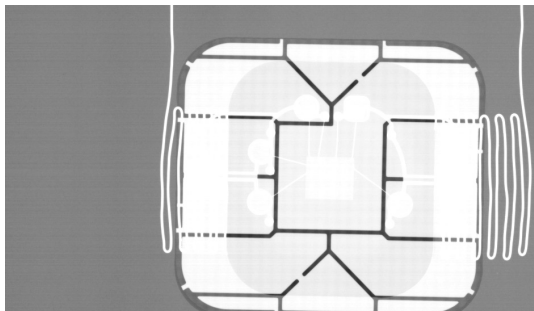
Publications and Documents

This group will assemble publications and documents that are relevant to the Center's interests and current events (e.g. Covid-19). This resource is especially useful to AAFS members who wish to become further involved in humanitarian work but is available to all. The relevant literature and information on these issues is quite varied and not widely available.



Laboratory and Analysis Protocol

This subcommittee assists with outreach efforts as well as managing current information on key laboratory and analysis protocols to assist those interested in applications of forensic science to humanitarian and human rights needs.



Equipment

The equipment subcommittee evaluates requests for equipment support and makes recommendations to fulfill those needs. They connect teams and laboratories with equipment needs to vendors and other resources.



Education

The education subcommittee explores mechanisms to enrich educational efforts with the value of solid forensic science contributions to humanitarian and human right issues. The charge is to examine how the goals and information of the Center can be integrated into education efforts at various levels.

